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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan

(covering the period from 14 April to 19 August 2015)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2223 (2015), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 30 November 2015 and requested that I report on the implementation of the Mission's mandate by no later than 17 August 2015. This report provides an update to my previous report (S/2015/296) dated 29 April 2015, and covers developments from 14 April to 12 August 2015.

II. Political developments

South Sudan peace process

2. Following the suspension on 6 March of the peace talks led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD, the IGAD leaders and partners proposed the reinvigoration of the peace process through the IGAD-plus formula. IGAD-plus entails the expansion of the mediation team to incorporate key regional and international stakeholders to collectively exert the necessary pressure on the South Sudanese parties and offer incentives so that an inclusive and comprehensive peace agreement can finally be reached. It is composed of the IGAD member States (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda), the African Union High-level Ad hoc Committee for South Sudan (Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa), the Troika States (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States), China, the European Union, the United Nations and the IGAD Partners Forum.

3. At the same time, and despite the suspension of the talks on 6 March, the parties reiterated their support for the peace process. From 19 to 23 April, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition held a leadership conference in Upper Nile State to discuss the status of the peace process and the IGAD-plus mechanism. In the outcome document, SPLM/A in Opposition expressed its support for IGAD-plus and called for its involvement in the negotiations to ensure a sustainable peace process. On 30 April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, also stated that the Government welcomed the participation of the Troika, the African

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Union, the United Nations and other members of the international community in the peace process.

4. Meanwhile, other regional initiatives aimed at narrowing the differences between the South Sudanese leaders continued in parallel to the IGAD peace process. Under the framework of the Agreement on the Reunification of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (Arusha Agreement), the co-guarantors, namely the Tanzanian and South African ruling parties, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the African National Congress (ANC), facilitated a dialogue between the three SPLM factions (the Government, SPLM/A in Opposition and the former detainees) to address leadership and political issues in the party.

5. On 29 May, the President of Kenya, who is also the rapporteur in the IGAD-mediated peace process, hosted a meeting in Nairobi attended by the former detainees, the ruling parties of South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and Kenya, which resulted in the announcement that the Arusha and IGAD processes had come together and that the former detainees were ready to return to Juba to reconcile the warring parties. On 1 June, five former detainees, escorted by the Deputy President of South Africa and ANC, the Secretary-General of CCM and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and Kenya, arrived in Juba on a four-day visit and held discussions with Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of South Sudan, and senior SPLM officials on the steps required for the implementation of the Arusha Agreement, and the complementarity of the Arusha and IGAD processes.

6. Concurrently, on 2 June, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission appointed former President Alpha Oumar Konaré of Mali as the African Union High Representative for South Sudan. Mr. Konaré has subsequently engaged in shuttle diplomacy with President Kiir and former Vice-President Riek Machar and with neighbouring countries, in particular Sudan and Uganda, to facilitate a coordinated resolution to the conflict.

7. During the reporting period, the IGAD special envoys also engaged in consultations with the Government, SPLM/A in Opposition and the former detainees to narrow the main areas of contention and propose a compromise. Following the consultations, on 10 June, the IGAD special envoys presented to the South Sudanese parties a summary of the proposed peace agreement.

8. The Government objected to the provisions of the summary related to executive power-sharing and transitional security arrangements. Similarly, SPLM/A in Opposition renewed its demands for compensation and reparations, federalism and proportionate power-sharing in all 10 states of South Sudan, and emphasized in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 11 June, that an imposed solution would not end the conflict.

9. As discussions continued to stall, on 13 June, in the margins of the African Union summit in South Africa, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union issued a communiqué in which it called upon the South Sudanese parties, in particular the former detainees, to foster dialogue and understanding among the SPLM leaders in the search for peace in South Sudan.

10. In an important development in the intra-SPLM dialogue, the leader of the former detainees, Pagan Amum, returned to Juba on 22 June. The following day, the National Liberation Council of SPLM revoked the decision concerning the dismissal

of SPLM party cadres from their positions within the party and restored Pagan Amum to his former position as Secretary-General of SPLM. The other senior SPLM leaders who had been dismissed from the party, including Riek Machar, were also reinstated in their positions.

11. On 27 June, President Kiir and Riek Machar held a consultative meeting in Nairobi under the auspices of President Kenyatta of Kenya to review elements of the proposed peace agreement. The two principals continued to express considerable differences on the outstanding substantive issues of federalism; power-sharing ratios at national and state levels; transitional security arrangements; governance reforms; and compensation and reparation for victims of atrocities. As agreed at the meeting, they subsequently submitted to President Kenyatta their positions on the contentious issues for further negotiations under an IGAD-plus-led mediation.

12. Following a four-month hiatus in the IGAD-led peace process, the IGAD-plus special envoys held a meeting from 21 to 23 July in Addis Ababa to review the "compromise agreement on the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan" proposed by IGAD. The draft agreement includes, inter alia, provisions on the framework of a transitional government of national unity; permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements; humanitarian assistance and reconstruction; resource, economic and financial management; transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing; the permanent constitution; and the joint monitoring and evaluation committee. The Secretariat provided technical experts to support my Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, in the IGAD-plus discussions on the transitional security arrangements, justice and accountability and humanitarian aspects of the draft peace agreement.

13. On 24 July, the IGAD special envoys handed over the proposed compromise agreement to the South Sudanese parties in preparation for the resumption of the IGAD negotiations on 6 August in Addis Ababa.

14. On 6 August, the Government, SPLM/A in Opposition and the former detainees resumed negotiations on the compromise peace agreement in Addis Ababa. The main areas of disagreement between the parties pertained to three key issues, namely: (a) the power-sharing arrangements between the President and the First Vice-President; (b) the distribution of positions in the State governments of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States; (c) security arrangements, in particular the process for the integration of the opposition forces into SPLA and the question of the demilitarization of Juba. SPLM/A in Opposition requested that the fourth issue of federalism also be addressed.

15. On 10 August, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the President of Kenya and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan met at the invitation of Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, in Entebbe to discuss the peace process, and agreed to collaboratively assist the parties in reaching a peace agreement. The leaders also agreed to jointly meet with the two principals, President Kiir and Riek Machar, in Addis Ababa on 15 August, with a view to resolving the outstanding issues before the IGAD-Plus summit, scheduled for 17 August. On 16 August, after having earlier announced that he would not attend the summit, President Kiir arrived in Addis Ababa.

16. On 17 August, following lengthy consultations between the parties and the leaders of Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda, SPLM/A in Opposition and the

former detainees signed the compromise peace agreement. The Government decided to only initial the agreement, expressing reservations about some of its provisions, and requested an additional 15-day period for further consultations with its constituencies. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia stated that the Government and SPLM/A in Opposition had also agreed to respect a ceasefire and allow full humanitarian access during the 15-day period granted for the consultations. The members of the African Union High-level Ad hoc Committee decided to sign the agreement. The other members of IGAD-Plus, including the Troika, the European Union and the United Nations, also signed the agreement as witnesses on 18 August, while China had signed the previous day.

Other political developments

17. On 12 May, the National Legislative Assembly passed the 2015 Non-Governmental Organizations Bill, which establishes a regulatory framework for the operations of national and international non-governmental organizations. The President returned the bill for parliamentary scrutiny, following concerns raised by civil society and members of the diplomatic community over the regulatory provisions of the bill.

18. On 8 July, President Kiir addressed the National Legislature to inaugurate the extension of the tenure of the Presidency, the National Legislature and the State Legislative Assemblies from 9 July 2015 to 9 July 2018, and the Constitutional Review Commission from 31 December 2014 to 31 December 2017, in accordance with the Constitutional Amendment Bill adopted on 24 March 2015.

19. With regard to accountability for the serious human rights violations committed during the conflict, on 24 July, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at the ministerial level, issued a communiqué on the report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry and the separate opinion submitted by a member of the Commission. The communiqué calls for the Peace and Security Council to establish an ad hoc subcommittee composed of Algeria, Chad, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of to consider the report and the separate opinion and provide its recommendations on the way forward by the third week of August for consideration at the meeting of the Peace and Security Council at the level of Heads of State and Government, to be held at the end of August.

III. Security situation

20. The conflict continued between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and SPLM/A in Opposition and the allied Shilluk militias under the command of Major General Johnson Olonyi, with an intensification of the fighting in the Greater Upper Nile region. Furthermore, rifts within each side became apparent at a press conference held in Nairobi on 1 July, where the Shilluk militia commanded by Major General Johnson Olonyi declared that it had merged with SPLM/A in Opposition. On 21 July, Riek Machar relieved two senior military commanders, Major General Peter Gatdet Yaka and Major General Gathoath Gatkuoth Gaihnyang, of their respective positions as the SPLM/A in Opposition Deputy Chief of General Staff for Operations and Deputy Chief of General Staff for Logistics as part of an "administrative reshuffle". On the same day, in separate orders, Riek Machar

appointed Johnson Olonyi as the Commander of Special Division 1 and Major General James Koang Chuol Ranley as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. The Government focused on retaining control of strategic towns. There has been an escalation in hostilities in the southern part of Unity State, with SPLA and its allied militias conducting major offensives, primarily against SPLM/A in Opposition forces, with severe consequences for the civilian population. The Bahr el-Ghazal region and Western Equatoria State have witnessed a further deterioration in the security situation, with low-intensity fighting between armed groups.

21. In Upper Nile State, Malakal was the epicentre of the fighting between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition with its allied Shilluk militias. Between 21 April and 6 July, control of the town changed hands on five occasions. Both sides remained in close proximity to each other along the banks of the Nile River, with numerous skirmishes in Melut, Upper Nile State, and in the vicinity of Malakal airport. On 19 May, during a clash between SPLA and Opposition forces in Melut, the UNMISS base came under fire, resulting in the killing of nine and injury of 11 internally displaced persons.

22. The military offensive by SPLA and allied militias into Opposition-held areas of Guit, Koch, Leer, Mayendit, Rubkona and Panyjar counties, which started in late May, led to a further deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation in Unity State. This involved attacks mainly against civilians, as Opposition fighters had already withdrawn into the bushes and swamps, with widespread reports of cattle raiding, pillaging, the destruction of population centres and documented incidents of grave human rights violations. It also sparked violent tensions between the main communities of Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk internally displaced persons in the UNMISS protection of civilians sites, particularly in Bentiu and Malakal.

23. In Jonglei State, there were reports in mid-May of sporadic clashes between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition forces in Pajut, Duk County. By the end of June, SPLA claimed to have assumed control of Pajut, while the Opposition forces remained in the vicinity, with periodic exchanges of shelling between the two sides. On 13 June, an attack by unidentified armed youths on a warehouse in Pochalla resulted in the death of two national humanitarian workers and one national police officer.

24. Western Bahr el-Ghazal State witnessed an upsurge in violence on 31 May, when an unknown armed group reportedly attacked Bazia Payam in Wau County. On 4 June, further clashes occurred in an area west of Bazia. On 7 July, SPLM/A in Opposition forces under General Dau Aturjong attacked Aroyo, Aweil Centre County in Northern Bahr El-Ghazal State, reportedly resulting in the deaths of two police officers. On 9 July, Opposition forces launched another advance into Chelkou Payam in Aweil West County.

25. Intercommunal tensions in the Equatoria region, and Lakes and Warrap States continued to be exacerbated by competition over grazing land for cattle and access to water. Violence between pastoralists and the local population was on an upward trend in the three Equatoria States, following non-compliance with the presidential decree ordering cattle keepers to return to their places of origin in Lakes and Jonglei States. On 22 May, there were widespread clashes between the local population and pastoralists in Mundri West County, Western Equatoria State, resulting in 60 fatalities. On 8 June, pastoralists, who were reportedly supported by SPLA elements from the same ethnicity, engaged in sporadic shootings, killing eight

civilians in Maridi County, Western Equatoria State. As a result of the violence, at least 75,000 civilians are estimated to have been displaced in the State.

26. In Lakes State, intercommunal violence continued over access to pasture and water for cattle, compounded by the cycles of revenge killings between the Dinka Agar subclans. The clashes, which occurred in mid-May, have resulted in over 80 deaths and 40 injuries. From May to July, in Jonglei State, despite significant efforts by the Greater Pibor Administrative Area officials to curb the conflict within its borders and with its neighbours, violence and tensions continued between different Murle age groups within the Area. On 12 July, fighting between the Nyakurmong and Lango groups in Pibor resulted in three people being wounded.

IV. Humanitarian situation

27. As at 31 July, over 1.6 million people were displaced inside South Sudan, and more than 620,000 were refugees in neighbouring countries. Active hostilities and insecurity continued to disrupt the humanitarian response and restrict road, river and air access. On occasions, this forced humanitarian organizations to reduce their staff levels or pause programmes in and around the conflict-affected areas, in particular in southern Unity State and parts of Upper Nile State. Humanitarian deliveries were also constrained by road and river checkpoints and demands for illegal taxation or extortion. Humanitarian facilities have been attacked and looted, and personnel subjected to assaults, threats, harassments, detention, abduction and killings, with at least 29 fatalities among aid workers since 15 December 2013.

28. Despite the increasingly challenging operating environment, humanitarian agencies scaled up the delivery of aid to remote areas. Since the beginning of 2015, humanitarian partners have provided food assistance to more than 2 million people, water sanitation and hygiene services to 1.6 million, health care to 1.1 million, protection services to one million, and education services to 235,000 children and adolescents.

29. The nutrition situation remains above the emergency threshold, with approximately 80 per cent of the counties in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal and Warrap States classified at critical nutritional levels. Some 250,000 children are at risk from rapidly worsening nutrition, with one in three children suffering acute malnutrition. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report endorsed by the Government and released in May, in a country of some 11.6 million people, 7.9 million are expected to face food insecurity, including 3.3 million people in "stressed" food insecurity. Over 4.6 million people are already facing "crisis" and "emergency" levels of food insecurity. The humanitarian situation in Unity State is particularly alarming, as the insecurity prevents access to communities and monitoring the risk of famine among the displaced population.

30. On 23 June, the Government officially declared a cholera outbreak in Juba County. As at31 July, a total of 1,429 cholera cases, including 42 deaths, were reported in Juba and Bor counties in Central Equatoria and Jonglei States, respectively, with a case fatality rate of 2.94 per cent. Health partners conducted a series of oral cholera vaccination campaigns targeting UNMISS protection of civilians sites in Bentiu and Juba to prevent cholera and to complement other measures to improve hygiene and community awareness.

31. The leading causes of illness among internally displaced people were acute respiratory tract infections, followed by malaria, acute watery diarrhoea, acute bloody diarrhoea and suspected measles. Viral leishmaniasis (or kala-azar) continues to be a concern. From January through July, a total of 2,308 cases and 72 deaths (with a case fatality rate of 3.1 per cent) were reported from 15 treatment centres. Partners continue to support enhanced surveillance, case management and interventions to prevent transmission.

32. The escalation of fighting in the Greater Upper Nile region has resulted in the damage and destruction of large numbers of schools, leaving an increasing number of children without access to education. The national Back-to-Learning Initiative, conducted from February to June, aimed to support communities in returning their children to schools and other temporary learning spaces and keeping them there. The initiative targeted out-of-school children and adolescents, including the children associated with the South Sudan Democratic Movement/South Sudan Defence Army (SSDM/SSDA)-Cobra faction, as part of their reintegration into communities. Overall, more than 215,978 children and adolescents (of whom 42 per cent are girls) have been provided with access to learning opportunities.

33. The humanitarian community revised the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2015 in June, taking into account the deepening vulnerabilities and new humanitarian requirements, especially in urban areas, where humanitarian agencies have not commenced operations. The revised plan requires US$ 1.63 billion to assist 4.6 million people with life-saving aid in 2015. On 16 June, over $275 million was pledged at a high-level event in Geneva organized by the European Union and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. As at 31 July, the plan was funded in the amount of $687 million, leaving a funding gap of nearly $1 billion for 2015.

V. Implementation of the Mission's reprioritized mandated tasks

A. Protection of civilians

34. UNMISS continued to pursue a three-tiered approach to ensure that civilians are protected from the threat of physical violence, with specific protection for women and children, and to deter or respond to violence against civilians. The Mission's early warning mechanism assesses the evolving risks to the civilian population, to enable it to act in a timely and proactive manner.

35. Under tier one, protection through dialogue and engagement, UNMISS continued to work closely with United Nations country team partners and non-governmental organizations to support the resolution of local conflicts. During the period, UNMISS civil affairs teams held 503 meetings with local authorities, community leaders, youth and women, including in Opposition-held territory, to identify conflict threats and mitigation measures. UNMISS also organized 97 conflict management, mitigation and resolution events, including intercommunal dialogue activities and workshops, assisting 4,332 cattle camp youth, community leaders, women and internally displaced persons at UNMISS protection of civilians sites and at other locations to develop conflict management skills and to resolve intercommunal disputes. Likewise, in Lakes State, UNMISS focused on conflict management workshops for cattle keepers in Rumbek Centre and Yirol Counties,

one of the hotspots for intercommunal violence. UNMISS continued to promote conflict resolution in its protection of civilians sites through daily interaction with community leadership, women, youth and other authorities.

36. Under tier two, provision of physical protection, as at 12 August, UNMISS was providing protection to over 189,220 internally displaced persons at six protection of civilians sites, including over 121,194 in Bentiu, 36,149 in Malakal and 28,663 in Juba. The UNMISS protection of civilians site in Bentiu experienced the largest increase of internally displaced persons during the period, numbering some 50,000, while Malakal registered an additional 3,000 internally displaced persons. Threats of violence are an important factor forcing populations to seek refuge in the protection of civilians sites, while increasing food insecurity exacerbates the situation. Approximately 40 per cent of the UNMISS force strength is now dedicated to the protection of these sites.

37. The remainder of force personnel not tasked with administrative, force protection, contingency or protection duties are focused on dynamic protection efforts. UNMISS projected its presence by conducting 8,611 short-duration, 280 long-duration, 33 dynamic air and 630 integrated patrols. In particular, UNMISS is scaling up its protection efforts in Unity State by establishing a security presence in previously inaccessible locations. This will include the establishment of temporary operating bases in order to provide a sense of security to the local populace, while also facilitating conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. From 23 to 28 May, in coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UNMISS undertook "Operation Unity," the first road patrols into the southern counties of Unity State since December 2013.

38. Disturbances in many UNMISS protection of civilians sites, ethnic tensions, youth and gang mobilization, violence, incursions by armed elements and threats against humanitarian and UNMISS personnel (28 UNMISS police have sustained injuries in the protection of civilians sites in Juba, Malakal, Bentiu and Bor) continued to pose considerable challenges. From 8 to 10 May, clashes occurred between the Bul Nuer and Adok clans from the Nuer community in the protection sites in Juba, which resulted in the death of one internally displaced person and injuries to at least 73 others. The UNMISS protection site in Malakal has experienced several incidents of fighting between internally displaced persons from the Shilluk, Nuer and Dinka communities (with some Darfuri citizens having been attacked and their shops looted). Incidents of internally displaced persons being caught in the crossfire and directly targeted by armed elements, in contravention of international humanitarian law, have also been a source of concern.

39. UNMISS continued to administer four holding facilities to detain internally displaced persons who threaten the safety and security of the protection of civilians sites in Bentiu, Bor, Juba and Malakal. As at 31 July, 25 suspects (24 men and one woman) were being held at these facilities, including seven in Juba, nine in Bentiu, five in Malakal and four in Bor. This is a significant reduction compared to the 63 offenders detained in April, as UNMISS revised the procedures for the review of cases of internally displaced persons being held in holding facilities, including through reintegration into the community. UNMISS has also been in discussions with the Government regarding the handover of suspects.

40. UNMAS conducted surveys and explosive ordnances disposal in Melut in Upper Nile State and in Jonglei State. On 3 June, following the fighting between

SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition in Melut, UNMAS deployed a team to clear two unexploded mortars in the UNMISS base. UNMAS provided mine risk awareness training in the UNMISS protection of civilians sites in Malakal and Bentiu, in Upper Nile and Unity States, respectively. Overall, during the period from 14 April to 31 July, UNMAS released around 6.5 million square metres of land (equivalent to 898 football fields); destroyed 621 landmines, 3,307 explosive remnants of war and 6,635 items of small arms ammunition; and provided risk education to 169,207 civilians (including 55,237 boys and 46,357 girls).

41. Under tier three, in support of the confidence and trust-building policing strategy of the South Sudan National Police Service, UNMISS initiated an integrated sensitization programme for 104 national police personnel, which addressed the issues of community policing, building trust and confidence, human rights, child protection, sexual and gender-based violence and respect for diversity.

42. In June, with UNMISS support, the Central Equatoria State Ministry for Gender and Social Development opened South Sudan's first safe house for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Juba, where they will receive counselling and psychosocial support. UNMISS continued to engage in advocacy using Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) as a tool for training women on prevention, participation and protection.

43. Following the issuance of "temporary stay" permits by the Government for foreign nationals residing at one of the UNMISS protection of civilians sites in Juba, UNHCR has supported several foreign national representatives in visiting Makpandu Refugee Camp in Yambio, Western Equatoria State, ahead of a planned relocation of the 578 foreign nationals remaining in the Juba site.

B. Human rights monitoring and reporting

44. UNMISS continued to investigate reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as human rights abuses. During the reporting period, UNMISS interviewed over 200 displaced civilians, allegedly victims of and witnesses to human rights violations perpetrated mostly by SPLA forces with the support of armed militias or armed youth within the context of surge operations in Unity State commenced in April. Following initial interviews, UNMISS released a press statement on 11 May, indicating concerns over continuing and consistent reports of the burning of towns and villages, killings, the abduction of males as young as 10 years old, the rape and abduction of girls and women and the burning of people alive in their homes.

45. On 29 June, UNMISS released a flash human rights report, which documented the human rights violations perpetrated as fighting escalated in the Greater Upper Nile region in April and May. The occurrence of sexual violence, including rape, gang rape and abductions, has significantly increased during the recent upsurge in fighting. At least 172 women and girls were reportedly abducted and 79 subjected to sexual violence, including gang rape, with several subsequently being shot dead or burnt alive in their tukuls in Unity State. Additionally, dozens of children were reportedly killed, raped and abducted during April and May. At least 93 women, mainly Shilluk, were reportedly abducted by SPLA soldiers in Upper Nile State. There have been several reports of sexual violence and extortion against women and girls at military checkpoints as they were leaving the UNMISS protection of

civilians sites for livelihood activities, such as gathering food and firewood. Women have also been subjected to sexual exploitation, including inside the protection of civilians sites, reportedly by male internally displaced persons.

46. These attacks resulted in the forced displacement of thousands of civilians, many of whom have been deterred from seeking refuge in the UNMISS protection of civilians site in Bentiu, Unity State, owing in part to the existing SPLA defence cordon around Bentiu and Rubkona and SPLA checkpoints in the vicinity of the site. Another surge in fighting in mid-June led to human rights violations similar to those documented after the beginning of the offensive.

47. UNMISS continued to follow up on cases of alleged human rights violations, including inside the UNMISS protection of civilians site in Malakal, Upper Nile State. Intercommunal violence at the site increased when Malakal came under the control of Major General Olonyi's Shilluk forces, with UNMISS receiving allegations of abductions and extrajudicial killings of Dinka men outside the protection of civilians site. When the Government regained control of Malakal, several members of the Shilluk community were targeted. UNMISS continues to investigate cases of alleged killings and abductions. Overall, UNMISS has obtained credible reports of the abduction of at least 50 civilians near the protection of civilians site in Malakal, mostly by SPLA elements.

48. Owing to the upsurge in violence in Unity and Upper Nile States, a total of 279 incidents affecting 5,995 children were reported. These included 60 verified incidents of killing (affecting 97 boys, 54 girls and 32 children of unknown sex) and an additional 27 unverified incidents (affecting 43 boys, 33 girls and 25 children of unknown sex); 34 verified incidents of recruitment and use of children (affecting 289 boys and 3 girls), with 9 additional unverified incidents (affecting 418 boys); 13 verified attacks on or military use of schools and 2 additional unverified cases; 6 verified attacks on and military use of hospitals, with 5 additional unverified cases; 33 verified incidents of rape (affecting 4 boys and 92 girls), with an additional 7 unverified incidents (affecting 84 girls); 23 verified incidents of abduction (affecting 23 boys, 53 girls and 2 children of unknown sex), with nine unverified incidents (affecting 73 boys, 11 girls and 102 children of unknown sex); and 19 incidents of denial of humanitarian access, with an additional 4 unverified cases.

49. To date, the SSDM/SSDA-Cobra faction troops in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area released a total of 1,755 (including 5 girls) of an estimated 3,000 children. The children were screened, registered, released and reintegrated within the context of a joint programme by the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, UNMISS, UNICEF and partners. To date 6,199 children and adolescents have access to learning in the five targeted sites in Pibor. Advocacy efforts for the release of the remaining children continue.

50. A joint school assessment project by the United Nations and SPLA conducted in April identified 45 schools under the military use by both parties to the conflict. SPLA and allied forces have vacated 26 schools in Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes and Upper Nile States. Owing to the insecurity and fighting, the Mission has not been able to access or verify schools being held by SPLA in Opposition. With 11 additional incidents of military use of schools having been documented since the outbreak of the conflict, a total of 30 schools are presently under military use. In addition, nine schools were reportedly attacked

during the military offensive in Unity State in May and are currently not being used, while one additional school was temporarily used for military purposes in Western Equatoria State.

51. In a positive development, on 30 April, South Sudan acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

52. In terms of accountability, SPLA reported, in its initial report on the revised action plan and recommitment agreement for ending grave violations against children, dated 4 May, that two SPLA soldiers were detained and charged for sexually abusing two girls, aged 9 and 13, in Basilia in Western Bahr el-Ghazal State.

53. Continuous challenges to the administration of justice in accordance with international human rights standards persist given the collapse of justice institutions in the context of the current crisis.. Prolonged and arbitrary detentions were observed throughout the country, attributable to several causes, including the ongoing conflict, lack of infrastructure and case backlogs. In the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, in the absence of a statutory judge, 15 of those detained at the prison on serious charges had not been brought to court. In Lakes State, two members of the legislative assembly have remained in detention for months awaiting trial.

54. In Central Equatoria State, the refusal by the Juba Main Prison to admit new detainees owing to the absence of space, and a reported decision by the court not to receive new cases owing to backlogs, contributed to prolonged detention and overcrowding at police detention facilities. UNMISS also noted an increase in the number of women held in various detention cells in South Sudan, totalling 31 in June 2015.

55. While UNMISS received fewer reports of harassment and intimidation of journalists by security personnel, there were at least two cases of harassment directly related to reporting on fighting in Unity and Upper Nile States. Meanwhile, the chair of the Association for Media Development in South Sudan, who is also the editor-in-chief of the *Juba Monitor*, relayed procedural concerns about the appointment of members of media regulatory bodies, determined by presidential decree and announced on 13 May.

C. Creating the conditions for delivery of humanitarian assistance

56. The delivery of humanitarian assistance is faced with unpredictable challenges, particularly in the greater Upper Nile region, stemming from the risk of becoming caught in crossfire, difficulties in obtaining flight and river safety assurances and restricted movement due to the rains. UNMISS continued to work with humanitarian partners to assess operational logistics and implement contingency plans. Mission engineers conducted maintenance operations of road networks, which, coupled with enhanced inter-agency information-sharing on road conditions, has improved the mobility of humanitarian and UNMISS convoys. A

total of 7,482 force protection tasks were undertaken to protect road convoys, barges and humanitarian activities during the reporting period.

57. UNMAS continued to play a key role in creating conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance through surveys, route assessments and mine clearance of 250 km of roads in Jonglei, Unity and Western Bahr el-Ghazal States.

58. UNMISS continued to support the International Organization for Migration in constructing extensions of the protection of civilians sites in Bentiu and Malakal, through the provision of materials, fuel and transportation of cargo when feasible. UNMISS also provided humanitarian partners with physical protection, office space, warehousing and accommodation in its premises in Bentiu in Unity State, Bor in Jonglei State and Malakal in Upper Nile State.

D. Supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement

59. In addition to logistics and life support provided under bilateral arrangements, UNMISS continued to assist the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism through the IGAD Joint Technical Committee in Juba. This included the provision of force protection and logistics and administrative support services (accommodation, transport, water, food, fuel, electrical power and medical cover) to the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Teams co-located at UNMISS bases.

60. From their deployment in March 2014 through 31 July 2015, the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Teams investigated a total of 46 incidents, which amounted to violations of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 23 January 2014. Of these, 19 violations were attributed to Government forces, 23 to SPLM/A in Opposition and 4 to both parties. IGAD teams carried out several investigations in most counties of Unity State, as well as in Malakal and Melut, Upper Nile State. All these resulted in violations being issued against the two parties.

VI. Mission staffing and status of deployment of surge capacity

61. As at 31 July, the actual strength of the UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,335, including 765 international staff members, 1,173 national staff members and 397 United Nations volunteers. The civilian staffing review was completed in 2014 and there have been no further adjustments. As at 31 July, the UNMISS police strength stood at 1,033 of the authorized 1,323 officers, including 500 individual police officers, 53 correctional officers and 480 personnel in formed police units. The induction of the formed police unit from Nepal was completed on 9 May. The Mission expects to reach its full capacity of formed police unit personnel in August with the arrival of the remaining two units from Ghana and Rwanda, which has been delayed owing to issues connected with the arrival of contingent-owned equipment and clearances from the Government of South Sudan.

62. As at 31 July, the UNMISS troop strength stood at 11,546 military personnel. Of the 5,500 surge troops, 4,713 have been deployed. The deployment of the Force Marine Unit from Bangladesh and the Aviation (Medium Utility Helicopter) Unit from Sri Lanka was completed on 11 May and 22 June, respectively. The deployment of the remaining 400 troops from Ghana and 280 troops from Kenya

has been postponed owing to challenges with contingent-owned equipment deployment. The Ghanaian Battalion's equipment is ready for deployment, but has been delayed owing to the poor road conditions to Bentiu and clearances pending from the Government of South Sudan. The deployment timelines for the remaining troops from Kenya will be determined by the readiness of contingent-owned equipment and timelines for obtaining the necessary clearances from the Government of South Sudan. The deployment of five tactical helicopters from Ethiopia and Rwanda was cancelled following the written objection of the Government of South Sudan. Ongoing delays in the deployment of contingent-owned equipment across the Mission continue to hamper operations for the units already in the mission area.

63. UNMISS continued to raise awareness of its personnel and the local population, particularly those seeking protection in UNMISS protection of civilians sites, of the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. Additionally, UNMISS is in the process of implementing initiatives in connection with my report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/69/779).

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations staff

64. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded a total of 102 violations of the status-of-forces agreement. Of these, 59 were restrictions on UNMISS movement, affecting land, air and river operations. Other violations included threats to UNMISS personnel and premises, including protection of civilians sites, attacks on UNMISS barges, assault and harassment of UNMISS personnel, illegal entry into UNMISS premises, unwarranted arrest and detention, interference with the UNMISS protection of civilians mandate, search and confiscation of UNMISS property, impoundment of UNMISS vehicles and demand for payment of taxes. It is of concern that 92 of the reported violations were perpetrated by government security forces, including SPLA, the national police and the national security service.

65. In three incidents, on 29 April, 7 May and 27 July, SPLA soldiers fired shots into the air in close proximity to the UNMISS base and protection of civilians site in Bentiu, Unity State, resulting in the injury of five persons seeking protection there. On 5 July, two SPLA soldiers reportedly entered the same site in Bentiu, shooting and killing one person. On 15 May, an UNMISS military officer was wounded by a stray bullet fired by a SPLA soldier in Rumbek in Lakes State, while engaged in celebratory firing. On 19 May, during heavy fighting between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition in Upper Nile State, approximately 20 artillery shells and stray bullets landed inside the UNMISS protection of civilians site in Melut, killing nine internally displaced persons and injuring 11 others. On 28 May, as a result of some SPLA soldiers carrying out intermittent small arms firing in close proximity to the UNMISS base in Malakal, three internally displaced persons and one UNMISS military personnel sustained gunshot wounds from stray bullets. On 27 June, SPLA soldiers fired some 15 to 20 rounds at an UNMISS barge approximately 21 kilometres north of Bor town. On 9 July, SPLA attacked an UNMISS barge convoy with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns south of Malakal,

rendering the engine and communication equipment of the barge temporarily inoperable.

66. SPLM/A in Opposition was responsible for nine security incidents during the reporting period, including restrictions on UNMISS land, river and air movement, attacks on an UNMISS protection of civilians site and threats to UNMISS personnel and premises. On 1 July, SPLM/A in Opposition and General Olonyi's Shilluk militia opened fire on internally displaced persons at the UNMISS protection of civilians site in Malakal. One civilian was killed and another eight were injured.

67. As a direct effect of the deteriorating security situation due to armed conflict in Upper Nile State, the United Nations approved the temporary relocation of personnel on 22 May from Melut in Upper Nile State to Juba, Central Equatoria State. On 3 July, the United Nations evacuated staff from Malakal in Upper Nile to Juba, some of whom have since returned to Malakal. Most of the threats and associated risk against United Nations personnel and assets, however, emanate from the protection of civilians sites. Regular perimeter breaches, including the smuggling of weapons into the sites and violence among internally displaced persons, constitute a direct threat for United Nations personnel and assets within these sites. Most of the sites, owing to their size and large number of inhabitants and limited mission resources, cannot effectively be policed. In the protection of civilians sites in Juba, internally displaced persons have entered United Nations premises where staff work and reside on several occasions.

68. As at 5 August, three UNMISS national staff members arrested in August and October 2014 remained under detention at the National Security Service headquarters in Juba. During the Mission's most recent visit to check on their welfare, the staff members stated that no further investigations had been conducted since April and no charges had been filed against the personnel.

69. UNMISS has continued to engage with, and notify the host Government on a regular basis of these violations and their negative effects on UNMISS, its operations and the safety of its personnel and premises. A monthly matrix of incidents is also shared with the Government. However, to date, UNMISS has only been informed of action taken with regard to the 27 June shooting incident targeting an UNMISS barge, including the arrest of the commander of the SPLA Riverine Detachment. The Mission is yet to be informed of the outcome of investigations into the other incidents outlined above.

VIII. Financial aspects

70. The General Assembly, by its resolution 69/260 B of 25 June 2015, appropriated the amount of $1,139,520,000 for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. As at 4 August 2015, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMISS Special Account amounted to $676.1 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amounted to $4,802.4 million. As at 4 August 2015, reimbursement to contributing Governments for troop and formed police costs and contingent-owned equipment costs had been made for the period to 28 February 2015 and 31 December 2014, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

71. The security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains of grave concern, particularly the unprecedented levels of violence inflicted on the population. The conflict has resulted in the internal displacement of over 2 million people, forced 201,911 internally displaced persons to seek protection in UNMISS bases as at 19 August, and caused a severe humanitarian crisis, with 40 per cent of the population facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity. I am deeply concerned by the steep increase in the number of civilians seeking refuge in the protection of civilians sites, escaping from the ongoing violence and a catastrophic humanitarian situation.

72. Beginning in late April, the country witnessed a surge in large-scale fighting between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition and allied militia forces over control of key areas in Upper Nile State, including Malakal and Melut, as well as the oilfields in Paloich in Upper Nile State and in southern Unity State. I strongly condemn this escalation of violence, which violates the cessation of hostilities agreement signed by the warring parties on 23 January 2014, and the killing of hundreds of innocent civilians.

73. The clear preference by South Sudanese leaders to pursue a military option instead of an inclusive political settlement has resulted in profound suffering for millions. The increase in violence has once again demonstrated the absence of a genuine commitment by the parties to end the current conflict. I have repeatedly called upon President Salva Kiir Mayardit and former Vice-President Riek Machar to display statesmanship and make the compromises necessary for an inclusive and comprehensive peace agreement. The leaders bear the primary responsibility for the violence and for the serious human rights violations and abuses committed in this senseless, ruinous war. The horrific fact that women and children are being deliberately targeted, with countless incidents of sexual violence, including gang rapes, abductions, killings, arson and displacement, is totally unacceptable. It must stop now.

74. The culture of impunity in South Sudan must end, and the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide must be held to account. Justice and accountability are a requirement for any peace agreement to be sustainable and to break the cycle of violence. In this regard, I again urge the African Union to release the findings of the report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry and to support the establishment of criminal accountability mechanisms, including the option of a hybrid court.

75. I am particularly disturbed by the continued access challenges faced by humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel, as well as the insecurity and violence, including physical assault, harassment, threats, arrest, detention and abductions, that they face while carrying out their duties. In this respect, I am deeply concerned about the Government actions targeting United Nations officials. On 1 June, I issued a statement condemning the Government's decision of 29 May to declare my Deputy Special Representative, Toby Lanzer, persona non grata, and called upon the Government to immediately reverse its decision. The Government's refusal to reconsider the expulsion of Mr. Lanzer is yet another indication of its disregard for the suffering of its people and contempt for those who work to bring them essential humanitarian services.

76. I call upon the Government to adhere to its obligations under the status-of-forces agreement and on the parties to the conflict to ensure unfettered freedom of movement and humanitarian access for UNMISS and humanitarian workers. I also urge both parties, in particular the Government, which has the primary responsibility to protect civilians, to establish a secure environment for civilians and create the conditions necessary for the voluntary return of internally displaced persons. I also appeal to the Security Council to call upon the Government and the opposition to abide by the status-of-forces agreement in granting unrestricted access to the United Nations and humanitarian partners.

77. UNMISS continues to make every effort to implement its protection of civilians mandate under Security Council resolution 2223 (2015) and extend its reach beyond UNMISS bases to provide protection to the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable civilians throughout South Sudan. In this regard, I renew earlier calls for troop-contributing countries to expeditiously deploy the remaining surge capabilities and military equipment, which are critical to enable UNMISS to effectively deliver on its mandate. UNMISS continued to experience delays in obtaining necessary clearances from the Government of South Sudan for troop deployments and internal relocations, as well as for the deployment of contingent-owned equipment, affecting the efforts to deploy all mandated surge troops. I regret that the Government rejected the much-needed deployment of tactical helicopters. I urge the Government of South Sudan to extend its full cooperation to the deployment of the remaining troops and assets, which will help the Mission to provide wider and more effective protection to civilians under threat of violence.

78. I welcome the signing by Riek Machar and the former detainees of the IGAD compromise peace agreement. I have taken note that President Kiir initialled it with some reservations. I strongly hope that he will sign the agreement by the end of 15-day deadline set by IGAD.

79. I am disappointed that the Heads of State and Government summit did not culminate in the signing of the agreement by all the parties. However, I am encouraged by the regional and international consensus in support of the agreement, which the United Nations also signed as a witness.

80. Time is of the essence. The situation on the ground is highly charged and unpredictable. Every day that passes without an agreement prolongs the suffering of the South Sudanese people and increases the risk of a large-scale resumption of the fighting. It is critical that South Sudan's regional and international partners act collectively to ensure that the parties who have signed remain committed to the agreement and that the Government comes on board by 1 September. The consequences of failing to reach a negotiated settlement would be catastrophic for South Sudan and the region as a whole.

81. The United Nations stands ready to work with the parties, IGAD, the African Union and other international partners to finalize the agreement and move swiftly towards its implementation. It is my intention to convene a high-level summit on the situation in South Sudan on the margins of the General Assembly this September, to collectively support the peace process and speak with one voice.

82. Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the tireless courage of UNMISS personnel, who, under the able leadership of my Special Representative, Ellen Margrethe Løj, continue to work to protect tens of thousands of civilians under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation. In particular, I thank the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided much-needed uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I also commend the personnel of the United Nations country team and non-governmental organization partners for their assiduous efforts to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance to the population, often in perilous circumstances.

UNMISS
August 2015
SOUTH SUDAN
SUDAN
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
UGANDA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
DEM REP OF THE CONGO
Juba
Kadugli
Damazine
Nuba Mts
Abyei
Bentiu
Malakal
Bor
Wau
Yambio
Torit
Kuajok
Rumbek
Yei
Maridi
Aweil
Pibor
Akobo
Nasir
Melut
Renk
Kodok
Ulang
Pochalla
Kaka
Mongalla
Gumbo
Tambura
Raja
Kiir Adem
Mapel
Nimule
Lasu
Kajo Keji
Lainya
Morobo
Source: UNMISS
Map No. 4265 Rev. 19 UNMISS
August 2015 (Color)
Nuba Mts
Abyei
Bentiu
Malakal
Bor
Wau
Yambio
Torit
Kuajok
Rumbek
Yei
Maridi
Aweil
Pibor
Akobo
Nasir
Melut
Renk
Kodok
Ulang
Pochalla
Kaka
Mongalla
Gumbo
Tambura
Raja
Kiir Adem
Mapel
Nimule
Lasu
Kajo Keji
Lainya
Morobo
Juba
Kadugli
Damazine
National capital
State/region capital
Town
Major airport
International boundary
UNMISS operational northern limit
State/region boundary
Sector boundary
Abyei region**
Main road
Railroad
0
100
200 km
0
100 mi
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined
** Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined
Cartographic Section